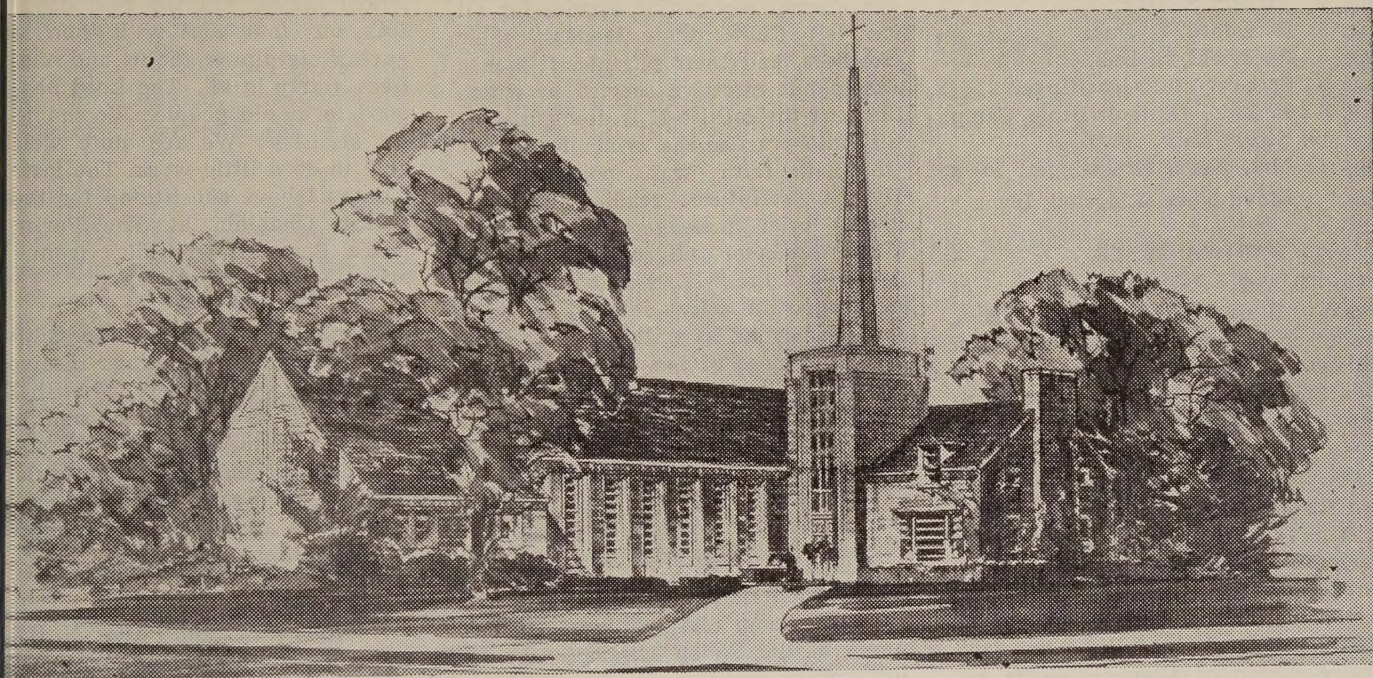


The ANSGAR LUTHERAN



The new Emmaus Church, Racine, Wisconsin, shown above in the architect's drawing will be of Tennessee bluish-orchard stone and glass in contemporary design. Overall size of the main church is 108 feet, 6 inches by 38 feet, 6 inches. The parish unit, including the tower is 40 x 28 feet. The church will seat in the nave 100, 29 in the choir transept and 51 in the balcony. It will have an overflow capacity of 150 for a total seating capacity of 510 persons. The plans include a sacristy, working sacristy, hall, wardrobe, mothers' room, church office, fireplace room, utility room, kitchen, assembly room and 8 to 12 classrooms. The cost will be in the neighborhood of \$208,000.00 complete.

The ground breaking service was held May 30th. Since then the church has been under construction.

News and Notes

Milltown, Wis. Milltown Lutheran Church, Pastor A. E. Neve, are conducting a financial campaign to raise \$40,000 to enlarge their church and build a parish house. The campaign period is two years.

Pastor Lloyd Neve's Itinerary

July 19 West Branch, Iowa
 July 20 Geneva, Minn.
 July 21 Owatonna, Minn.
 July 22 Northfield, Minn.
 July 23-24 Spencer Lake Bible Camp
 July 25 Waupaca and Neenah
 July 26 Poy Sippi, Wis.
 July 27 Oshkosh, Wis.
 July 28 Camp Douglas, Wis.
 July 29 Brooklyn, Wis.
 July 30 Oregon, Wis.
 Aug. 1 Cedar Falls a.m.; Coulter p.m.
 Aug. 2 Not definite.
 Aug. 3 Rutland, Iowa
 Aug. 4 Viborg, S. Dak.
 Aug. 5 Beresford, S. Dak.
 Aug. 6 Rockfield, S. Dak.
 Aug. 8 Spencer and Graettinger
 Aug. 8-14 Lake Okoboji Bible Camp
 Aug. 10 Storm Lake, Iowa
 Aug. 11 Mrs. Neve, Graettinger, Iowa
 Lloyd Neve, Ringsted, Iowa.

IOWA W.M.S.

The W.M.S. Circuit consisting of Council Bluffs, Underwood, Neola, Shelby and Avoca met at the English Lutheran Church of Avoca, Tuesday, June 8th with 98 members in attendance.

The program was under the direction of Mrs. Agnes Gronberg. Pastor Romer read Romans 10, 12-15 and led in prayer. A girls' quartet consisting of Janice Wendt, Donna Larson, Patricia Woltmann and Ellen Jensen sang "Thy Word Is Like a Garden, Lord." Mrs. Edna Nelsen welcomed the guests, and Mrs. Erickson of Council Bluffs responded. We were favored with a vocal solo by Mrs. Stanley Carlsen of Shelby with Mrs. Einer Romer accompanying. We were fortunate to have with us for the day Miss Helen Margaret Jacobsen, who gave a very interesting talk on her work as a missionary in Sudan, Africa. The program closed by everyone singing "Blest Be the Tie That Binds."

The business meeting was presided over by our W.M.S. leader, Mrs. Wm. Pittmann. While the collection was being tabulated Mrs. Art Nelsen read a

letter from our W.M.S. president, Mrs. Irving Petersen, introducing plans for a Junior W.M.S. and suggesting how it could be carried out in our groups. The collection amounted to \$61.53. Of this \$10.00 were given to Miss Jacobsen and the remainder was sent to the W.M.S. treasurer to be used as the officers may decide. In closing we united in the Lord's Prayer and sang the doxology. Thereupon we adjourned to the Church parlor where refreshments were served at the tables.

On this day a double joy was ours. We were glad to see so many visitors with us from the churches of our circuit. And the week before we had just completed the installation of a new altar, pulpit and altar furnishings in our Church. —Lula Nelson, Secy.

Plainview, Nebr. On the evening of Rural Life Sunday we sponsored a semi-formal recognition service for all the 4-H Clubs, their leaders, their members, and their parents. It was a simple but effective service in which the part the local 4-H is doing in putting into practice the principles of our Christian faith was pointed out. Hymns, scripture readings, prayer, and a brief message by the Rev. Virgil Anderson, all combined to impress upon the 4-H'ers that the church does have an active interest in what goes on beyond its walls.

At the close of the service and before the fellowship lunch was served, the **God-Home-Country** award was explained in the hope that many will strive to obtain it the next year.

The service was very well attended by those in the locality who are concerned with 4-H work.

Hospital Bandages. A letter has been received from Jenny Jensen, head nurse of the Sudan Mission, expressing sincere gratitude for the bandages and rags received for the various hospitals in this mission. She would like to have the people who sent these bandages know they are greatly appreciated. It is impossible to find the time to write each individual giver, so this note should be an expression of gratitude from the hospital workers for these bandages. She feels certain that no one will send such gifts without praying for those that are benefited by the bandages, which to her is of even greater value than the bandages.

—N. B. Hansen.

Racine, Wis. Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Pastor L. M. Andersen, sold its old church on 12th and Racine Streets for the sum of \$25,000.00 to the Church of God in Christ, a congregation at Racine. Our Savior's Lutheran is to build a new church.

Castro Valley, Calif. Pastor and Mrs. H. M. Hansen recently celebrated their golden wedding. We had a letter from Pastor Hansen from which we quote:

"We had a wonderful day. Faith Lutheran Church with its pastor had an open house for us June 27th, with a fine program. There were over 100 present, at least so many signed the guest book, and many did not sign. We received many wonderful greetings from here and all over, also greetings from Japan and Denmark, my school mates. On the real day, June 29th, our four sons with their wives gave a big dinner for us and our relatives, thirty in all. The Lord has been good to us old people. We thank Him for all of it. We are quite well and able to do a little work. The last three months I have substituted for the Lutheran Chaplain at The Parks Air Force Base, fifteen miles from here every Sunday morning."

Thank you! As it is impossible for us to answer all greetings received on our golden anniversary, we wish hereby to express our sincere and heartfelt thanks to congregations and our dear friends for congratulations that we have received. May the Lord bless all of you.—Rev. and Mrs. H. M. Hansen.

Hutchinson, Minn., Pastor N. B. Hansen. The Main Street Lutheran Church again conducted its annual vacation Bible school at two schools in the parish. Six classrooms and two assemblies were rented in the public school in Hutchinson as well as a rural school a few miles out of town, where many of our members live. School was conducted for three weeks with half day in town and two weeks all day out in the country. Our staff for both schools was eight teachers. The total enrollment this year was 182. The theme of our Bible study was "What Is God Like."

(Continued on page 6)

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Otto H. Stave, Business Manager. Subscription price: United States and Canada, \$3.00 per year in advance; foreign countries, \$4.00. Everything pertaining to the Youth Department should be sent to Rev. Homer Larsen, 904 Bluff St., Cedar Falls, Ia. A special club rate of \$2.00 per year is offered Bible classes and organizations of the church when ten or more copies are sent to one address, and \$2.00 a year for the congregation has The Ansgar Lutheran in every home—**Church Paper in Every Home Plan.** Subscriptions, remittances, change of address, advertisements and all communications pertaining to the Business Department should be sent to the Lutheran Publishing House, Blair, Nebr. When CHANGE OF ADDRESS is desired give old as well as new address. Entered as second-class matter, December 14, 1927, at Post Office at Blair, Nebr., under Act of March 3, 1879.

Much of our news is received from Religious News Service, and the News Bureau of the National Lutheran Council.

JOHN M. JENSEN, Editor
 321 E. 8th Street
 Spencer, Iowa

Editorials and Comments

THE LEAST MONEY AND THE MOST DEVIL*

Let us begin these notes with this story:

A young minister received a call from two different congregations at once to become their pastor. One congregation was rich, and able to give him a large salary, and was well united. The other was poor, and so divided that they had driven away their other minister.

In this condition he applied to his father for advice. An aged Negro servant who overheard what they had said made the reply: "Massa, go where there is the least money and the most devil." He took the advice, and he made the happy instrument of uniting a divided and distracted church and winning many souls for Christ.

This young preacher was an idealist. No doubt his friends said he was foolish. Perhaps his in-laws also thought he should know better than to take their daughter to such a poor place.

We raise the question if the urge for nice things, security and efficiency, may not have a tendency to make a pastor go where there is the most money and the least devil.

By this we do not want to infer that congregations have a right to be careless about their pastor's well-being. The congregations ought to take care of their pastor both as far as home and salary are concerned.

You will be congratulated by your friends for your promotion and your good fortune, if you find a place where everything is smooth and easy. But the Author of the Pioneer of our faith will smile encouragingly to anyone who ventures out where there is no outward security. He said long ago, "I am with you...."

WISE SPENDING AND STEWARDSHIP

We are happy that stewardship is gaining momentum in our church. A Christian must learn to spend of his means for the Kingdom of God. We are also happy that there is a tendency here and there not to depend on quota and our share for the synodical needs, but the boards simply trust the congregations to give the necessary funds. The need of course must be brought to the attention of the members by education.

Wise spending must be looked at from two points of view. First, the individual Christian must take care that he does not spend his money simply on himself. Here is a family that gets a \$3,000 car, where a \$2,000 car might have served the family just as well. Is such spending pleasing in the sight of God? Here is a family that always gets the gadgets of modern life. They pay off on a TV set, but they can hardly afford to pay \$25.00 a year to the church. Is that right? We could mention many other things. In view of the desperate need so many places, could we not think of how we spend our money individually? Have we the right to spend money as we sometimes do? Should we not save so as to have more to spend for God?

There is also the need of wise spending on the part of the boards. The better the boards plan, and the better they can make long-term plans, the more readily the members will respond to their appeals.

Of course, emergencies will come up, just as emergencies come to individual families, such as illness, etc.

We do believe that all the boards could perform a real service if there was a constant flow of information to the members through **The Ansgar Lutheran** about the need and the work of the synodical institutions. It may be said that the editor should keep the readers informed, and this is true. But he is not well enough equipped to do that work as it should be done. We believe our boards themselves can do better than they have done. Stewardship will be strengthened that way.

In conclusion, let us say it is a matter of consecration. If my whole life and work is consecrated to God, then I will know how to spend wisely.

THE UNFAITHFUL

We have just finished reading a new book, **The Unfaithful**.* It is a novel built on the Prophet Hosea, written by a Baptist pastor who came as a refugee from Estonia.

The book in a most graphic manner makes the life and work of the prophet come to life before you. What interested your editor most was the burden of the prophet. The Word of God came to him, and he had to speak no matter what it cost.

Here you have the true spirit of the Christian worker. He sees the sin and unbelief of the world. He sees the sham and hypocrisy of much religion. This places a burden on him, a burden so heavy that he has peace only when he is obedient to God in proclaiming both the law and the gospel.

Paul gives expression to this when he writes to the Corinthians (I Cor. 9:16): "For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!" Note the words, "necessity and woe."

It goes without saying that the man who has such a burden will make an impression. He may have all the temptations and problems and burdens of ordinary life, family life included, as in the case of Hosea, but he has to be obedient to the heavenly call.

John the Baptist must have felt that way when he preached to King Herod. Kaj Munk felt that way when he preached to the Nazi tyrants in Denmark.

And Jesus himself in the face of the cross kept calling his people to repentance.

As you read the book about Hosea you feel how far away you are, and you get the urge to go out and be alone with God, asking him that he fill you with some of that spirit of these men.

* By Ewald Mand, Muhlenberg Press, 292 pages, \$3.75.

A Layman Asks Questions

III

Last time we talked, you really gave me something to think about. This time I want to ask you, pastor, about the so-called Marian Year. What does this mean?

Here you have an answer: This year 1954 has been proclaimed a Marian year by the pope. During this year much attention is given to the virtues of the Virgin Mary. Places dedicated to Mary have special blessings to give to those who seek them.

Such a year naturally helps to give prominence to the Virgin Mary.

But pastor, is it true that Mary was taken bodily into heaven just as Jesus was?

Of course, it is not true. The Bible never mentions anything of the sort. She died and her dust is resting in Palestine till this day. There you see how dangerous it is, when we add things not directly found in the Bible.

By the way, pastor, the other day I read something about the present pope in Rome saying something about marriage and celibacy. What does this mean?

You are right. Pope Pius XII recently sent out a warning to the whole Roman Catholic Church. But perhaps I had better quote from **The True Voice**, a Roman Catholic paper, so that we get the whole thing straight.

Vatican City—Contemporary errors exalting the married state above celibacy were condemned by His Holiness Pope Pius XII in an encyclical letter which he declared was intended "to proclaim and defend in a special way at the present time the excellence of the gift of virginity."

ENTITLED, "Sacra Virginitas" (Sacred Virginity), the 8,000-word document was largely concerned with priestly celibacy and religious chastity. It outlined the Church's traditional doctrine by ample quotations from the Church Fathers of all ages showing the superiority of virginity over the married state. It also gave counsels for the practice of chastity and for training seminarians for the celibate life.

The Holy Father denounced as "pernicious" the idea of

those who counsel young people away from religious or priestly life on the ground that virtuous people are needed in the world.

Prominent in the encyclical was the Holy Father's disapproval of the current error of "those who, departing from right thought, so exalt matrimony as to place it before virginity" and who "undervalue chastity consecrated to God and ecclesiastical celibacy."

The encyclical, just made public, was dated March 25 the Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin. A Vatican Press Office release meanwhile stated that the word "virginity" used in the encyclical must be understood in the traditional sense. That is, it means not only physical integrity in sexual matters, but also and particularly the state of chastity of men and women of religious communities, diocesan priests and persons consecrated to works of charity in the world.

Does that really mean that the Roman Catholics think that the unmarried state is superior to the married state?

Yes, in the Roman Catholic Manual of Christian Doctrine, page 491, it is stated: "Virginity is preferable to marriage, because they who vow virginity or celibacy more closely resemble Our Lord and are free to consecrate themselves to the service of God and of their neighbor."

Here it might be well to state that the pastors in the early church were married. The Apostle Peter, whom the Roman Church considers the first pope, was married, for Jesus healed his mother-in-law.

The Bible nowhere states that the unmarried state is above the married state. Marriage is the natural way of living, for God said that it is not good that man should be alone. He made him a partner.

Jesus performed his first recorded miracle at a wedding, where he made water into wine.

But perhaps we have more or less clarified some of these things by now.

You certainly have, pastor. I wish others could get some of these things straightened out too.

Can't we get together soon and talk about other things

CHURCH NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

Company to Release "Luther" Throughout The World

New York—Twentieth Century-Fox, one of the leading motion picture companies in Hollywood, will release "Martin Luther," the film biography on the leader of the Protestant Reformation, in thirty-eight countries and territories throughout the world.

The signing of a three-year contract with Louis de Rochemont Associates, producers of the Luther film for Lutheran Church Productions, Inc., was announced here by Murray Siverstone, president of Twentieth Century-Fox's International and Inter-American organizations.

Arrangements have been completed and are now in progress for the showing of "Martin Luther" in fifty-two countries altogether, according to Gordon Mace, president of de Rochemont Associates.

Distribution of the picture in the United States, Canada and Germany has been handled through de Rochemont Associates, who have also completed negotiations for showings in Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark, Holland, England, Iceland and Switzerland. The film is expected to open in these countries early in the fall. Similar plans are underway for Austria, Ethiopia and Yugoslavia.

Under the agreement signed by Fox, the company has acquired distribution rights to "Martin Luther" in Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Burma, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Mexico, New Zealand, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, Portugal, Siam, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Syria, Formosa, Trinidad, Uruguay, Venezuela, Greece and Turkey.

Mr. Mace declared here that "this agreement with one of the major movie distributors of the world testifies to the great popular interest in the Luther film and its stature as one of the leading box-office hits of our time."

He said that more than ten million people have already seen "Martin Luther" in showings at nearly 3,000 theaters in the U.S. and Canada.

LAUNCH 'CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS' MOVEMENT TO COMBAT DELINQUENCY

Miami, Fla.—A "Christian Soldiers"

movement, organized to combat juvenile delinquency and teen-age "gang" activities, will start functioning here July 10.

Its backers hope to spread the movement throughout the nation within the next few years.

Organizer and leader of the "Soldiers" is Ken Fortner, 26-year-old advertising executive with Pan-American Airways.

His plans call for giving teen-agers a wide range of services, including wholesome recreation, devotional activity, religious and psychiatric counseling, an employment service and help for youth in trouble.

Fortner, who has four children, was not taken too seriously when he first made known his elaborate plan a month ago.

But accomplishments to date have convinced many Miamians that the Soldiers will prove to be one of the most far-reaching youth programs ever developed.

Interested teen-agers already are registering for membership. The organization has rented a two-story, 10,000-square-foot building as a youth center and headquarters.

A jukebox, motion picture projector and a sailboat have been donated, as well as the use of a hotel swimming pool.

A mothers' auxiliary has been formed and already started on a campaign to rid retail stores of obscene literature and eliminate unwholesome influences in other public places.

The Soldiers' monthly magazine will publish its first issue in July.

Fortner says a businessmen's advisory committee will investigate all youth organizations in the Greater Miami area to establish eligibility for affiliation with the movement.

Affiliated groups will be permitted to use Soldiers' facilities and will receive any help the movement can provide.

But any youth groups found to be subversive or organized for profit will be "exposed," Fortner said. The Christian Soldiers, he added, is non-denominational and non-profit.

Beginning July 10, youth will be offered these services:

A 24-hour on-call service to help any teen-ager in trouble.

A supper club in the Soldiers' center where young people can have dates in a wholesome atmosphere.

Uniformed drill teams and a band, rehearsals for which will be on Monday nights.

Motion pictures, both Christian and wholesome secular ones, on Tuesday and Friday nights.

Bible classes on Wednesday nights. Various denominations will provide teachers for groups of their own faith.

A Soldiers' Chorus, which will rehearse on Thursday nights.

A full day of sports on Saturdays.

Devotional programs at 2:30 p.m. Sundays.

An employment service with which many Coral Gables businessmen already have agreed to cooperate.

Counseling by a staff of doctors, including psychiatrists, and clergymen.

Fortner said the aim of the movement was to reach teen-agers in the streets with an attractive program of entertainment and activities and give them the spiritual guidance and foundation many youth lack.

The Soldiers are not competing with the churches, he added, pointing out that rank in the organization will be bestowed on the basis of points earned by members taking part in the activities of their own churches.

A bazaar, one of a series of monthly events which will finance the organization, will highlight the July 10 opening-day ceremonies at the center.

Fortner said that businesses cooperating in the campaign of the mothers' auxiliary against indecent literature and other bad influences will be issued a window decal bearing the organization's seal and the statement, "Approved for Teen-Age Trade."

EVANGELICAL LUTHERANS REPORT MEMBERSHIP GAIN

Minneapolis, Minn.—Baptized membership of the Evangelical Lutheran Church reached 919,840 at the end of 1953, it was reported at the denomination's biennial convention here by Rev. O. H. Hove, general secretary.

This compares with 907,124 at the end of 1952.

Actually, the Church gained some 88,000 members in 1953—its greatest growth in history—but because of the adoption of revised standards of membership for statistical purposes the increase in the total figure is relatively small as compared to the previous year, Mr. Hove explained.

He reported that the membership is 60 per cent rural (in rural communities and towns under 2,500) and 40 per cent urban. Only 12 per cent live in cities over 100,000 in population.

Mr. Hove said the ELC won 1,012 members from the Roman Catholic

Church last year and lost 477 members to it.

NEW CHURCH FUND-RAISING IDEA

Hermosa, Beach, Calif.—The Ekklesians, adult group of St. Cross Episcopal church, have come up with a new idea for raising funds.

They secured interest-free loans from church members, purchased an attractive lot and are building a four-bedroom and den home with volunteer labor.

Profits from its sale will go into the church treasury.

NEWS AND NOTES

(Continued from page 2)

The congregation is looking forward to a church expansion project. It was decided at the spring business meeting to elect a committee to study the needs and costs of a building adequate to take care of the present and ever growing membership. This committee will present a report of its findings at the annual business meeting in November, 1954.

OBITUARY

Peter Kildebeck at the age of 81 years, 9 months, passed away quietly in his sleep Sunday morning, June 14, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Gertrude Christiansen, living in Hillsboro, Oregon. His wife Karen preceded him in death by fourteen years.

Peter Kildebeck was born in Denmark, coming to Nebraska in 1908. He lived near Hardy and Ruskin, Nebraska, for thirty years. He was a member of Bethany Lutheran Church at Ruskin during these years. He, with Mrs. Kildebeck, moved to Lincoln, Nebraska, in 1937 where she passed away in 1940. Since then he has made his home with his children.

Surviving are three daughters: Mrs. Vita Salvesson of Germany; Mrs. Gertrude Christiansen of Hillsboro, Oregon; and Mrs. Dagmar Goldbeck of Hastings, Nebraska. Also four sons: Dr. Jerry of Huntington Park, California; Reinholt of Castro Valley, California; Dr. Orval of Torrington, Wyoming; and Elmo of San Diego, California. In addition he left 23 grandchildren, and 7 great-grandchildren.

CHURCH 75 YEARS OLD

Minden, Nebr. Members of the Frederickburg Evang. Lutheran Church south of here celebrated the church's 75th anniversary Sunday and Monday with special services, fellowship hours and a tour of the Pioneer Village.

The Rev. Allison Hansen, present pastor of the church, and three former pastors took part in the two-day observance.

Former Pastors Present

They are the Rev. Clarence Jensen of Elk Horn, Ia., pastor from 1946-48; the Rev. Alfred Andersen of Froid Mont., pastor from 1938 to 1946, and the Rev. K. Nyegaard of Oshkosh, Wis. 1923-25 pastor.

The observance began Sunday a.m. with Rev. Jensen in charge of the service. A noon luncheon at the church followed.

Rev. Andersen had charge of an afternoon service and Rev. Nyegaard of

"PEP" OR POWER

By W. H. Houghton

According to a religious leader recently heard the greatest need of Christian workers today is "pep." In the parlance of the twentieth century that means activity. We are to be around to **do**. Our modern inspirational addresses seem to consist of "hurry" and "lift" and "push" and "all together" and "do something." There are, no doubt, times when we all need the whiplash to arouse our latent energies, but have we not come to the place where we depend on human **pep** rather than divine **power**; on natural **vim** rather than spiritual **vision**? We are so modern and up-to-date that old-fashioned reliance on the power of God is out of our reckoning.

There was a day when the church had power. Some of the oldest inhabitants can remember when certain individual churches wielded an influence they do not know now. That church may not have had a good building, but it had a good prayer meeting. It didn't have a pipe organ, but the people had vocal organs and used them in singing praise. The message of the preacher gripped and troubled the congregation. Nowadays folks "enjoy" sermons. Sermons are not made to be enjoyed. Wasn't it John Wesley who tested lay preachers by asking if any had been saved or any made mad? You can't preach sermons that will make folks mad in these days. They just smile sweetly and say, "The good man is sincere," and never go back. They are calloused. When I was a boy I wondered what "hard shell" meant. Now I know. It must mean the crust of in-

difference most Christians wear. Pep will not puncture it—power will....

What is the church to do when its present schemes are worked out? Is the work of God always to be a matter of new plans and programs and schemes and drives? Must it always be mechanical? Brethren, are we doing this work in the energy of the flesh or the power of the Spirit? I nowhere read of the works of the Spirit. I do read of the works of the flesh. Our modern motive and method sometimes sound reminiscent of a great work once attempted with the thought, "Let us make us a great name."

Perhaps it is because we have insisted on furnishing the plan that God allows us to furnish the power, too. The apostles needed power from on high, but we don't.

We haven't time to consult God.

We have changed **tarry** to **hurry**.

We make **fast** and **pray** read **feast** and **pay**.

We think more of **push** than **prayer**.

We prefer **cash** to **consecration**.

We would rather seek **endowment** of **money** than **endowment** of **power**.

Brethren, let's go back to the Word of God and the power of God. Let us no longer depend on machinery but on the **Spirit**. Jesus said: "When He, the Spirit of truth is come, **He** will guide you into all truth.... He shall glorify Me.... But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto Me." His the planning; and His the working out of the plan; and His the glory.

—Lutheran Standard

(Continued on page 15)

I Am a Minister of Music

By June Bender

The Typical Parish Worker does many things, varying, of course, with the needs of the congregation she is serving and with her own special gifts. The parish workers specialize in one thing, some in another. Here at First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, where I have been working for the past year and a half, my special responsibility is in the field of music. In fact, I am officially designated as the minister of music and parish worker of this congregation. Let me tell you about some of my duties within this capacity.

It is my distinct responsibility to see that all of the music which is used in the worship of God here in our church is chosen wisely and presented decently and in order so that all who hear may sense that they have truly been in God's house.

Why don't you come along with me and see some of my activities throughout the week?

Beginning with the Children

As we approach the parish hall on a bright, clear Sunday morning we find the children of every size and age coming into Sunday school. In just a few moments we shall have our opening service.

Did you notice all the smiles just when our pastor announced the opening hymn, "Beautiful Savior"? It is a favorite of the children. This year we have learned many new hymns. Our singing is inspiring in the regular worship service, too. We want all the Sunday school children to be familiar with the music of their church as well as with its teachings and doctrines.

During the summer we have a special time for further training in our Vacation Bible school. Each morning, during the recess period, the entire school participates in a "Worship through Music" class. This gives me a good opportunity to teach the children the Lutheran liturgy and to expand the "store" of hymns each child owns. We found that all age groups look forward to hearing the story of each hymn, and how it came to be written—stories of faith and courage.

Miss June Bender is serving as minister of music and parish worker at First Lutheran Church, Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, Pastor Alfred J. Wittmann. She was graduated from Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois, with the degree of Bachelor of Music. In college she concentrated on the ministry of music field, with a major in organ.

Now, as the class sessions begin, let us visit the various departments. I supervise the educational program and also teach in the upper grades occasionally. During the fall of the year I conduct teacher-training classes, and so I must be close to the working program of the Sunday school.

As the Sunday school closes, we shall go over to the choir room. Here we find the senior choir members preparing for the service. The junior choir will also be singing this morning, so there is much to do in these few minutes.

Selecting Music that Fits the Day

After holding a brief rehearsal with the choirs I shall go over to the church to open the worship service with my prelude. This is, perhaps, one of the most important functions of a "minister of music." By careful selection of preludes, offertories, and postludes, in harmony with the Epistle and the Gospel lessons and the text for the day, this music, together with well-chosen hymns, can create a unity of thought. Sunday is a day of climax for the Christian, and nothing should be "second best."

Besides serving as organist for all regular worship services, special services, funerals, and weddings I am responsible for the choral program of this congregation. In order that our three choirs may be effective in their work it is necessary for me to spend a good share of my time in the selection, planning, and preparation of appropriate choral music for each Sunday and church festival. The officers of the senior choir and the Music Committee (of which I am a member) handle all practical affairs of the

choirs. This arrangement has made possible a smooth-running program.

Our pastor and the church vestry have shown vision and foresight in another important phase of the ministry of music program. Realizing that the number of qualified organists and accompanists in the field of church music is limited, they have given me the opportunity of training a number of young people to serve as organists, accompanists, and assistants with the choirs. These young people are chosen for their talents, industry, and, most of all, for their devotion to their Lord. It is understood that they will "invest" the fruits of their learning in the work of the kingdom as an outward demonstration of their gratitude for this privilege.

My work includes the youth work and organizational and educational programs of the congregation. In such areas my work is similar to that of other parish workers—the responsibility of helping to build the finest and closest communion between God and man and of helping the pastor in every possible way.

How Our Church Colleges Help

Courses are now offered at our church colleges to prepare capable students to be proficient musicians with the necessary supporting courses in religion, philosophy, psychology, science, art, and literature to provide well-rounded servants for the church.

In the words of Albert Schweitzer, one of the "giant" personalities of our era: "If the director and performer do not feel themselves in a consecrated mood they cannot communicate such a mood to the hearer: something cold will settle upon the music and deprive it of its best strength."*

This indicates the ever-present need of highly trained but even more highly consecrated ministers of music to help in the service and the glorification of God.

Using the motto of Johann Sebastian Bach, we say: "**Soli Deo Gloria—To God alone be the glory!**"

*Albert Schweitzer, "J.S. Bach," London, 1911, p. 468.

—Lutheran Standard.

Echoes From Annual Convention

By Ervin F. Bondo

The 58th Annual Convention of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church marched through its business sessions with dispatch and thoroughness as it met in Audubon, Iowa, with Our Saviour's Lutheran Church as host, June 15-20. The convention was record-breaking...in attendance and in goals approved and set up for the following years.

By Saturday noon 293 lay delegates and 103 pastors were registered. Added to these were 300 registered visitors besides many others who were in attendance at the various meetings from surrounding churches and the host community. Facilities were taxed but the host congregation had been well organized for the convention and all arrangements had been made. A lot of good planning and hard work had gone before and the convention was thus well handled. We congratulate Our Saviour's Church for a big job well done.

FINANCES

The convention was marked by a strong, confident surge that carried nearly every proposal through with strong majorities. The first big resolution was the proposal formulated by the Church Council to inaugurate an ingathering of \$350,000 for "Onward with Christ" or a similar name. It proposed that \$100,000 be used for the Board of Home Missions for Church Extension; \$100,000 be used for Dana College and Trinity Theological Seminary for very necessary restoration of the older building and new equipment on the campus; and \$100,000 for the Board of Pensions to furnish a reserve for payment of pensions for the present pensioners and those soon to retire, since a new plan has been established which builds only a future reserve for the younger servants. Funds in excess of \$300,000 are to be assigned to Church Extension. This proposal was suggested by the president of the synod in his opening message to the convention. It had not been previously publicized since the opinions of the various board members had not been pooled and reported until the convention. Some discussions about the suddenness of the proposal were aired. Even the board members did not know what the opinions of the others were prior to the convention. However, the members of the convention felt that now was the time to move forward and not to hesitate for later action, and it was overwhelmingly adopted by a ballot vote...193 for, 73 against. Some of the 73 were not against the proposal, but they felt that further clarification as to when the ingathering would begin, how it would be offered to the congregations (placed on a yearly budget or gathered through a special fund campaign), ought to be spelled out before the representatives of their congregations should vote "yes." But the 58th Convention was not stopped by such practical matters...it strode ahead with a strong affirmative vote to do it now and let these matters be arranged later.

The national budget presented in toto on Saturday morning likewise was adopted without hesitation. In fact, a proposal from the floor to increase the giving in order that some necessary adjustments for salaries at Dana College and Trinity Seminary might be made, was likewise adopted. This grant totaled \$3300. The writer wishes that the mover of the resolution had been advised to ask for more in order that all personnel at our two institutions could have been included.

It was pointed that the per capita amount for the "Onward with Christ" ingathering was negligible. That can also be said of the national budget. That fact cannot be disputed. The trouble, most places anyway, is that we don't have

enough "per capita." It's something like the situation with an inexperienced traveler in "hard dollar" days alight from an overnite train ride. Desiring to give the porter proper "tip" for service rendered, the traveler asked him what the average tip was. The porter replied, "The average, sir, is one dollar." When the traveler responded with a dollar greenback, the porter went on, "Thank you, suh. You is first one to come up to the average." The challenge to enlist lukewarm and cold church members and the young in school is before you, gentlemen. It will be easy as far as the warmhearted are concerned.

MERGER

Then the merger question. One esteemed clergyman took an end run, sensing that a center smash or quarterback sneak wouldn't do. But the end run was of no avail. The convention was going forward. It smothered the end run, picked up the fumble, and went for a touchdown. The vote was big for continued action on the merger. Augustana Synod was likened to a favored girl who had said no to a proposal and had said no again. Those of us who attended the Augustana Synod convention two years ago in Des Moines know very well that she said no to merger with the other four bodies of the conference. The writer was present at the time that discussion was presented. One lone voice of a pastor from the state of Oregon or Washington thought would be good for Augustana to be along with her partner from the American Lutheran Conference. Other than this certainly isolated voice no support for it was forthcoming. Augustana said no in clear terms in 1952 at Des Moines. The 1954 convention of the U.E.L.C. said yes...and let us not be stopped by further time-consuming flirtations with wonder if she has changed her mind. The writer would like to have seen Augustana included...but since Augustana wants to wait for all Lutheran bodies in the U.S. we must realistically join the march now for a more united Lutheran front in the U.S.

PENSIONS

The Pension Plan came up for considerable airing. Perhaps one ought to say plans. In changing from an old plan (and a good one for the beneficiaries) to a new reserve plan that the 1953 convention ordered, over against that originally presented by the Board, a number of loose ends had been left. The 1954 convention was minded like the 1953 convention. It wanted a plan that would take care of all pastors and dependents from the contributions of the churches. Further, decided in 1953, it should be assessed to congregations on a confirmed membership basis, rather than on 8% of the particular congregation's salary. To this writer the last two conventions have voted to really provide for every pastor the service and have equalized the cost among the churches. It will take care of all pastors, regardless of present inability to add to his reserve by contributing for himself. Some heavy insurance and saving plans which were entered up during days of the old plan. With high living costs they simply are not in a position at present to set aside an additional \$120 which would have been necessary in order to share in the church's contributions according to the plan proposed by the Board prior to the 1953 convention a plan which is in effect in some Lutheran bodies now. After all, should we be so "security" minded that we are unable to pay our bills, live up to a good standard, and bring our offerings to God now?

Resolutions giving authority for accepting "Social Security" Benefits under the U. S. government should it be made available for clergy were passed with only a few voices feeling that it might be dangerous. One advantage of our new plan is that in case "Social Security" is made available on an individual basis to the clergy he will not be forced to make payments both to O.A.S.I. and to the Church Pension Fund.

ETC.

Of importance, too, were the resolutions granting authorization to the Church Council to formulate and to issue a Letter of Call to pastors serving in Lutheran Charities, in state institutions, and in the military chaplaincy; and in giving approval to a constitution for the Sudan Mission. Now there will be a new church body, "The Lutheran Church of Christ in The Sudan" (Northern Nigeria).

A pioneer was remembered when it was voted that a bronze plaque for the memorial stone marker in Elk Horn for Pastor G. B. Christiansen, indicating that he had served as modical president for 25 years, be provided.

MISSIONS

The mission fields away from home came in for attention,

also. Our own Helen Margaret Jacobsen represented the Sudan Mission work. Lloyd Neve presented his family and reminded us that our Lutheran Church also has a work for Christ in Nippon. A guest, Munshi Tudu, was presented to us, as a native from Santalistan. He has been studying in the United States, will attend the World Council of Churches Assembly in Evanston, and will then return to his native country to work in his native church. A clipping from "The Convention Reporter" will be of interest to our readers: "Several of the children of missionaries that have gone out from our synod, recently gave a California immigration officer reason to scratch his head and assert his authority. Checking cars in the California desert for "wetbacks" (illegal Mexican migrant workers), the car of Lois Girtz was stopped and the officer asked for the birth place of each of the occupants. Replied Lois Girtz, Calcutta, India; Lucille Eskildsen, Harbin, Manchuria; Roy Eskildsen, Peiping, China. When Everett Lundsberg exclaimed, Chicago, Illinois, the officer felt that his leg had been pulled long enough. He told the group to pull over to the side of the road. A check of credentials only proved to the officer that he had met up with a unique group of young people from the U.E.L.C."

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

Annual Meeting at Audubon, Iowa

By Margaret Miller

One hundred fifteen delegates at the annual W.M.S. business session reelected the incumbent candidates to their respective offices—Mrs. T. C. Hansen, President, Cedar Falls, Iowa; Mrs. Carl Christiansen, Recording Secretary, Trufant, Michigan; Statistical Secretary, Mrs. P. G. Rasmussen, Neenah, Wisconsin.

Miss Hedvig Nyholm, Council Bluffs, Iowa, and Mrs. Carl Hansen, Omaha, Nebraska, were elected as auditors with Mrs. Ried Neve, Kennard, Nebraska, as alternate for Mrs. Hansen.

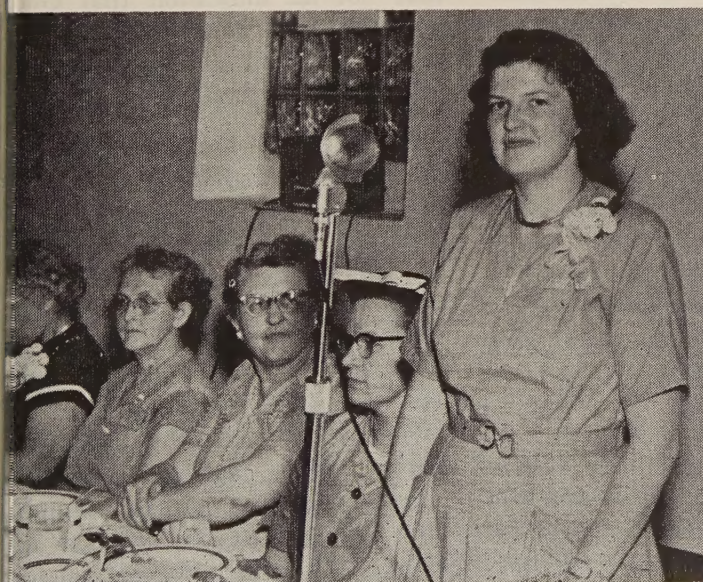
The delegates and other interested W.M.S. members filled the Memorial Hall Auditorium.

W.M.S. Friday Evening Service

One of the highlights of the convention is the W.M.S. Friday evening service. Miss Helen Margaret Jacobsen read



Miss Palma Petersen



Standing, Mrs. Lloyd Neve. Right to left, Mrs. Alton Neve, Mrs. T. C. Hansen, Mrs. C. A. Vammen.

scripture and led in prayer. Munshi Tudu, a son of our Santal Mission who has been studying in America for several years and who will return to his country upon completion of his work, brought greetings and a short message from the Land of the Santals.

Pastor Lloyd Neve spoke of the work in Kurume, Kyushu, Japan.

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Jorgensen who will go to the Santal Mission were presented to the convention by Pastor Henry N. Hansen, Chairman of the Santal Committee, Board of Foreign Missions.

Offering \$480.00

One half of this sum will go to the Japan Mission; one-
(Continued on page 15)

OUR BIBLE CAMPS

Wisconsin District

Spencer Lake, near Waupaca,
Wisconsin—July 18-24

Minnesota District

Children's Bible Camp—Aug. 8-14
and Aug. 15-21

Iowa District

Lake Okoboji
Junior Camp—July 25-31
Senior Camp—Aug. 8-15
Family Camp—Aug. 15-21

Nebraska District

Luther League Camp, Covenant
Cedars Bible Camp, Hordville,
Nebraska—Aug. 16-22

Pacific District

Camp Seeley, Crestline, California
Family Week—July 24-31
Senior Week—July 31-Aug. 7
Junior Week—Aug. 7-14

West Canada District

Sylvan Lake Bible Camp, Alberta
Youth Week—July 19-25

Covenant Heights Bible Camp

Estes Park, Colorado—Aug. 23-29

ABOUT THE LUTHER LEAGUE

Dear Editor:

I hope you will print at least a part of this letter. I am sure it will help fill your mailbox.

Recently I heard two ladies unofficially talking over the affairs of the church. They said the Sunday School sent support to two missions, the Ladies Aid was making a lot of money and doing big things but the Luther League just didn't amount to anything. The Luther League seldom had money for any project—Tom gave nothing, Dick gave very little, and Harry didn't even come to the meetings. No, the Luther League accomplished not a thing.

Did these two women realize that the money for all these organizations comes out of papa's pocket?

Certainly we see young people spend recklessly—money they could give to the L.L. or the church. They do not always spend their money as they should. Our young people—age 14, 16, or 18, are not expert financiers. Neither am I.

I think the emphasis is in the wrong place. The L.L. should not be a business enterprise—a money making organization. I believe it should be purely and solely spiritual and social. For three reasons:

The Luther Leaguers are confirmed members of the church—they have envelopes in which to put their contribution for church and missions and bring to church every Sunday—or at least they should. That they were taught in Sunday School, and it should be emphasized in L.L. They are not voting members of the church until they are older, but the church budget should be explained and the mission budgets of the church and synod should be explained. Do this at least once each year and by the time they are old enough to vote they may be interested enough to come to the business meetings. As it is now—the average age of people at the business meetings is 50 or 55 I would guess.

Spiritual—The meetings should be devotional and be a continuation of the confirmation class in that there should be something educational about the meetings.

Social—I feel that this is very important. Young people in their teens need to associate continuously with and have fun with other young people of the same religious faith. We must feed them on good wholesome entertainment and fun in Christian surroundings and with Christian friends.

A young person should feel free to come to the L.L. meetings even if he or she hasn't a cent in his pocket. I see no need of a L.L. treasurer. We should invite the young people into our homes and several

could go together and treat them to an outing once in a while.

* * *

Youthspiration

IF GOD IS MERCIFUL, WHY A HELL?

Rev. Wilfred Bockelman

On first thought it is hardly conceivable that an article with the above head should ever appear in a Youthspiration column. There is certainly nothing "spirational" about hell. One of the hardest things to understand and to accept is the thought of eternal punishment. It seems so inhuman and must, therefore, seem even more ungodly. What could God possibly benefit from inflicting everlasting suffering on a rebellious person? Or is the concept of eternal punishment even an indication of the final defeat of God? Does it mean that God wasn't able to win the person over and was, therefore, in a sense defeated?

If a person defies God all his life and perhaps many eons after death, must there not come a time when God's position will have to be vindicated, and the rebel will have to be recognized as a rebel and surrender? As long as there are still rebels in eternity who defy God, is that not an indication that God's position is not quite secure? Must the love of God admit defeat if not all people are finally saved by it?

But when we argue that way we merely indicate that we don't properly understand love as yet. There must be a doctrine of eternal punishment or man will be less than man, and God would be less than God. God burned His bridges behind Him when He created man. He decided to make man in His own divine image with a capacity to choose. The capacity to make a moral decision certainly implies that there must be at least two things from which to choose, good and evil, and the choice must be man's choice.

every time man made a bad choice God either slapped the man or else took away the bad consequences of the choice, there would really have been no choice at all, and God would have violated the divine "manness" of man. If choice is to have any meaning at all it must carry with it the unhappy consequences that follow in having made a bad choice.

Eternal punishment does not conflict eternal love. The very essence of love is that it uses no force. It must call forth a spontaneous response from the subject that is loved. The lack of such a response is a defeat for love than if it would finally have to resort to force to gain a response from the individual against the individual's own will.

To maintain the dignity of man and to keep him from becoming an automaton, he must always have the capacity to choose. If he loses this capacity he is no longer man. As long as he has that capacity it must include the possibility to choose evil. Furthermore, the choice of evil must then carry with it the consequences of evil.

When we rebel against this whole idea and think that it is not befitting God or consistent with the love of God we have an altogether too low opinion of love. God didn't want an automaton. He wanted man in His own image. To be able to choose, he had to have two things to choose from, good and bad. Out of his own free will he must want to choose to do good. If he is forced to choose good he is no longer a free man; he is an automaton. But if he chooses bad he must take the consequences of that bad choice.

When we rebel against the idea of free will we are not asking for a God of more love but for a God of less love; we are asking God to make us automatons who do His will by force.

Hell may be a morbid subject, but it must be a part of the scheme of things if God is to be God, man is to be man, and love is to be love.

—Lutheran Youth.

WHITE QUEEN OF THE CANNIBALS

Bess A. Olson

"Is Ma here? Is Ma here?" The cry reached Mary Slessor in her cabin in the village of Ekenge, Africa. The nineteenth century Scotch missionary to Calabar hurried to the compound. There messengers from a neighboring, hostile tribe begged her to come to their dying chief. They needed her medicines.

"You must not go," begged the Ekenge natives. "It is too dangerous! Besides it is beginning to rain."

What shall I do? Miss Slessor wondered. True it was a very dangerous trip through dense jungle, infested with drunken natives, snakes and wild beasts. At the end would be a strange cannibal tribe, half insane from horrible drinking, death ceremonies. On the other hand, this was an opportunity for which she long had prayed—to reach these people for Christ. She decided, "I'll go!"

The long trip through the perilous jungle in drenching rain ended for her at the new village with a raging fever. But without pause she attended to the chief, giving him medicine, watching over him, praying.

The patient drew back from the shadow of death, became conscious and regained strength. The natives, awed, listened reverently as Miss Slessor told them about God. When she went back to Ekenge her heart was singing with the knowledge that her sacrifice had not been in vain. The people were now open to the Gospel. But more was to come.

Long afterwards, Miss Slessor was preparing to go home on furlough. She was weak and ill and longing for Scotland. Crowds had gathered from far and near to tell her goodbye when a messenger told her the news that two tribes were preparing to go to war. A chief of one tribe had been injured. A man from the other tribe was blamed. The battle was to start on the morrow.

"I must try to stop them," said the brave woman. In spite of the protestings of the people she set out on the long journey. About midnight she reached a village.

"These people are war loving people," said the chief. "Who are you, a woman, to help them?"

Miss Slessor answered quickly, "In measuring the woman's power you have evidently forgotten to take into account the woman's God!"

She went on. At dawn she overtook the tribe of the injured chief. They were in the bush making preparation for the attack.

Miss Slessor spoke to the fierce cannibals as to schoolboys telling them to behave like men and hold their peace. She went on to face the other tribe.

Their warriors were gathered in a solid armed wall outside the village. She said sarcastically, "What beautiful manners you have," and started to force a passage through their ranks. Then a strange thing happened. Out of the sullen line of dark-skinned savages stepped an old man. He knelt at her feet.

"Ma, we thank you for coming," he said. "We beg you to help us make peace."

In astonishment Mary Slessor looked closely at the man. She recognized the chief to whom she had travelled in the rain to heal so long before. With a thankful heart she turned back to the first tribe. She ordered them to select two or three men to discuss peace terms.

They obeyed her like children. The representatives from the other tribe promised to make restitution for the injured chief. Soon Miss Slessor had disbanded the warriors and sent them home contented.

Not once but times without number Mary Slessor, empowered by God, conquered the fierce hearts of cannibals in Africa. No wonder she was known throughout the land as "The White Queen of the Cannibals."

BY THE FIRESIDE

THY BLESSING LORD

Thy blessing, Lord, on all vacation days;
 For weary ones who seek the quiet ways,
 Fare forth beyond the thunder of the street;
 The marvel of Emmaus Road repeat;
 Thy comradeship as graciously bestow;
 Their hearts shall burn within them as they go.
 Grant those who turn for healing to the sea,
 May find the faith that once by Galilee
 Flamed brighter than the glowing fire of coals.
 And when Thou hast refreshed their hungry souls,
 Speak the old words again, Master, feed Thy sheep!
 Be Thou with those who bide where mountains rise,
 Where yearning earth draws nearest to the skies!
 Give them the peace, the courage that they ask;
 New strength to face the waiting valley task,
 New light to lead through shrouding valley haze,
 Thy blessing, Lord, on all vacation days!

—Molly Anderson Haley

"STOP THE CAR"

A small boy, new to the Sunday school, was greatly pleased with his picture card and its text—"Have faith in God." On the homeward way, however, the precious possession slipped from his fingers and fluttered from the street car, and immediately a cry of distress arose, "Oh, I've lost my 'Faith in God!' Stop the car! Please stop the car!"

The good-natured conductor signaled, and the card was regained amid the smiles of the passengers. One of them said something about the "blessed innocence of childhood," but a more thoughtful voice said, "There would be many happier and truer lives if only we older ones were wise enough to call a halt when we find ourselves rushing ahead on some road where we are in danger of leaving our faith in God behind us." —Selected

DID YOU KNOW?

God had only one Son, and He was a Missionary.

THE SAME AS EVER

He Comes To Us as One unknown, without a name, as of old by the lake-side He came to those who knew Him not. He speaks to us the same word, "Follow thou Me," and sets us to the task which He has to fulfil for our time. He commands. And to those who obey Him, whether they be wise or simple, He will reveal Himself in the toils, the conflicts, the sufferings, which they shall pass through in His fellowship; and, as an ineffable mystery, they shall learn in their own experience who He is.

—Dr. Albert Schweitzer

ADVISING GOD?

"Praying for particular things," said I, "always seems to me like advising God how to run the world. Wouldn't it be wiser to assume that He knows best?"

"On the same principle," said he, "I suppose you never ask a man next to you to pass the salt, because God knows best whether you ought to have salt or not. And I suppose you never take an umbrella, because God knows best whether you ought to be wet or dry."

"That's quite different," I protested. "I don't see why," said he. "The odd thing is that He should let us influence the course of events at all. But since He lets us do it in one way I don't see why He shouldn't let us do it in the other."

GUIDE ME, LORD

Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways

To keep His statutes still!

Oh, that my God would grant me grace
 To know and do His will!

Order my footsteps by Thy Word

And make my heart sincere;

Let sin have no dominion, Lord,

But keep my conscience clear.

Assist my soul, too apt to stray,

A stricter watch to keep;

And should I e'er forget Thy way,
 Restore Thy wand'ring sheep.

Make me to walk in Thy commands,—

'Tis a delightful road,—

Nor let my head or heart or hands

Offend against my God.

—Wm. H. Havengal

SUCCESS

Success is in the way you walk the paths of life each day;

It's in the little things you do and in the things you say.

Success is not in getting rich or rising high to fame;
 It's not alone in winning goals which all men hope to claim.
 Success is being big of heart and clear and broad of mind;
 It's being faithful to your friends and to the stranger, kind.
 It's in the children whom you love and all they learn from you;
 Success depends on character and everything you do.

—Author Unknown.

Take out your church contribution envelope for next Sunday and put an extra dollar or two into the right hand pocket which is marked "For Others" or "Missions." Use that right hand pocket regularly. It is that pocket which represents you on the mission-fields all over the world.

"HAM AND EGGS"

One of our national pastors in Latin America went into a restaurant recently and ordered ham and eggs. The waitress reminded him that the day was Friday, and suggested that he must have forgotten. He replied that he ordered ham and eggs whenever he wanted them, regardless of the day.

The waitress was horrified. "If you want to sin that is all right," she exclaimed, "but I will not take any part in your sin."

"All right," he answered, "I'll just go to another restaurant."

She thought a moment and finally told him, "Wait just a little bit and I'll prepare it for you."

When the order of ham and eggs was brought, the national pastor bowed his head to give thanks. As he prayed someone slipped out of the kitchen and whispered in his ear, "Don't touch that food. Pay your bill and leave at once."

Startled, he sniffed the food and detected a strange sweet odor, like that of cyanide. He gladly paid his bill and left the restaurant, grateful for protecting Providence who had sent his unknown friend to warn him, sparing his life to continue preaching the unsearchable riches of Christ.

—Edward Wyman, Spanish Bible Institute, San Antonio, Texas.

opportunities for witness are found everywhere

The Taxi-Driver's Chance

One brilliant summer's evening in Belfast, a garage telephone rang loudly. The taxi-man went to the telephone and listened as an urgent call came through; a taxi was wanted at once at a certain public house in the city.

As all his drivers happened to be out, the taxi-man himself had to take the taxi. He did so reluctantly; he neither liked the job nor the locality.

When he arrived he found his 'fare' was in the bar, but presently he came out rather fuddled with drink and had to be driven to the dog races at Dunmore Park. To the taxi-man's surprise his 'fare' then insisted on moving himself in beside him in front, instead of sitting behind him.

After a while he took out his cigarette case and offered it to the taxi-man one.

"No thank you, I don't smoke."

"What? You don't smoke! Do you drink?"

"No."

"Or gamble?"

"No."

There was a long pause, then the 'fare' said slowly:

"I suppose you are one of those Christian people?"

"I am."

The taxi-man fully expected a mocking, drunken remark, or a very rude retort; instead, after a long pause, the 'fare' said slowly:

"I only wish I was. I'm thirty-seven and decently brought up, but years ago I took to gambling, then drink, then bad company. I simply **can't** stop now. There's no hope for me."

The taxi-man listened to the man's diagnosis of his own case in silence, and replied quietly:

"There is a remedy for your case, no matter how bad it is; that is, if you really want to be cured."

"I do."

The taxi-man thought a moment, then he asked:

"Must you really go to the dog races this evening? It won't help you."

At once his 'fare' became excited and restless. "Oh, I must, I have a big stake on it, I hope to win a lot."

The taxi-man was afraid if he argued he would lose his chance; there was a feverish glitter in the man's

eyes and he was still fuddled with drink.

"Well," he said, "I tell you what. I'll meet you with my taxi when it's all over, and I'll drive you to my home for supper. Then I'll tell you Who can cure your complaint."

"Nobody can, I'm hopeless."

"The Physician I mean has never lost a case yet."

The man stared at him.

"That's awfully decent of you, I'll meet you here in two hours time, if you really mean it."

The taxi-man was as good as his word. In two hours he was back at Dunmore Park, where he picked up a sobered but very crestfallen man.

"I lost my race. I've sunk 30 pounds since you left me."

"Your case is certainly a desperate one, but get in, a cup of tea is what you want."

After tea by the fireside in the taxi-man's snug home, he took down a Bible and read two short verses. Psalm 41:4: "Lord... heal my soul for I have sinned," and Isaiah 53:5: "With His stripes we are healed."

"There my friend," he said, "in those two short verses all your need is met. Your soul is sick with sin, you can't cure yourself but the Lord can, so you must cry: 'Lord, heal my soul for I have sinned,' and He will do it. How can He heal you? By the death and passion of His beloved Son: 'By His stripes we are healed.'"

Long did they talk; one was only too bitterly conscious of his own sin-sick heart and his utter helplessness; the other was blessedly conscious of the Great Physician's power.

These two texts were quoted repeatedly, earnest prayer followed, then long after midnight another soul trembling ventured to trust the Saviour.

What happened afterwards? (for this is a true story). The converted gambler is in India to-day, taking a two-years' medical course. After that he hopes to devote his life to winning the people of India for the Great Physician who can save both soul and body. Can he doubt it? Did not this same Physician save him, and send him forth to be a bright light in a dark land?

And the glory of this trophy will shine forever in the taxi-man's crown.

—Condensed from the **Shantyman** (Canada).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

	Total Received	Chil- dren's Homes	School Fund	General Fund	Home Mission	Indian Mission	Other Mission	Gen. F. Forel. Mission
Total synodical budget \$256,668.60		14750.10	83300.00	25000.00	58646.50	7550.00	1542.00	65880.00
Previously acknowledged	9807.61	748.70	3936.25	943.58	2296.17	667.61	100.00	1115.00
Audubon, Ia., Mr. and Mrs. George Hansen of Ebenezer Church in mem- ory of Christina Robertson	2.00			2.00				
Cedar Falls, from a friend in memory of George Hostrup	5.00		5.00					
West Branch, Ia., Mr. and Mrs. Hans P. Petersen and Mr. and Mrs. Al- fred C. Sondergaard each \$5 in memory of Mrs. Agnes Madsen	10.00				10.00			
Minneapolis, Minn., Dr. Silas Andersen of Edina Church	25.00		15.00		10.00			
Minneapolis, Minn., Lutheran Bible Institute, part of offering at Mission convocation	10.00				10.00			
Falmouth, Me., Emmaus Luth. Church, May mission money \$33.10, June mission money \$23.15	56.25		33.10	23.15				
Irene, S. D., Turkey Valley Luth. Church	25.00							75.00
Kankakee, Ill., St. Ansgar Luth. Church	85.83	15.83	35.00	10.00	10.00		5.00	5.00
Oakland, Calif., Our Savior's Luth. Church	50.00		25.00		15.00	10.00		
Portland, Ore., Bethany Luth. Church	100.00		50.00		25.00			25.00
Luverne, N. D., Sunday School Service at District Convention	10.40	10.40						
Farmington, Minn., Farmington Ladies Aid in memory of Mrs. Reuben Petersen	3.00				3.00			
The Illinois District, Golgotha W.M.S. in memory of Ingemann Jensen, Chicago	10.00				10.00			
The Iowa District W.M.S., the Beta Club, Elk Horn, Life Membership for Miss Palma Petersen, Elmh Children's Home	10.00				10.00			
Council Bluffs, Ia., Our Savior's Luth. Church	500.00	50.00	250.00	40.00	50.00	40.00	20.00	50.00
Minden, Nebr., Bethany Lutheran Church	100.00							100.00
Cedar Falls, Ia., Nazareth Luth. Church	175.00	25.00	80.00	25.00	25.00			20.00
Scranton, Ia., First Ev. Luth. Church in memory of Mrs. Robertson	10.00				10.00			
Neola, Ia., in memory of Miss Emma Hansen by Mr. and Mrs. William A. Smith	1.00				1.00			
Spencer, Ia., Bethany Luth. Sunday School	8.20				8.20			
Sidney, Mont., in memory of Mrs. Chris Sorensen: Mr. and Mrs. Chris Rasmussen \$5, J. O. Rasmussen \$2.50 and Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Dyn- neson \$2.50	10.00				10.00			
Shelby, Ia., Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Peterson in memory of Emma L. Han- sen, Underwood, Ia.	5.00				5.00			
Humboldt, Ia., in memory of Mrs. Andrew Nelson from friends	14.00				14.00			
Ord, Nebr., in memory of Darla Jane Jorgensen: Mrs. Kristine Larsen, Emma Larsen and Oscar Larsen \$3, Bethany Ladies Aid and Beth- any Lutheran Circle \$3, Mr. and Mrs. Chris Johnsen \$1, and Pastor and Mrs. C. Jeppesen \$1	8.00	8.00						
TOTAL	11041.29	857.93	4429.35	1043.73	2522.37	722.61	125.00	1340.00

SPECIAL MISSIONS

	Total Received	Japan Mission	South Amer. Mission	Santal Mission	Sudan Mission	Jewish Mission	China Mission	L.W.A. Mission	Gen. F. Forel. Mission
Budget for 1954-1955		16000.00	15500.00	10000.00	15000.00			36720.00	
Previously acknowledged	27357.31	1334.03	1077.69	2225.14	2526.67	105.35	29.47	19983.96	75.00
Blair, Nebr., Luth. Publ. House for Rev. Lloyd Neve	1.00	1.00							
Westbrook, Me., in memory of N. Holger Christensen: Mr. and Mrs. Philip Aaskov, Mr. and Mrs. Jens Bogdahn and Mrs. Lizzie Aaskov \$6, Miss Alma Hansen and Miss Marie Han- sen \$2, Mr. and Mrs. S. Davidsen, Mr. and Mrs. D. Brour- ke, Mrs. Alice Sinclair, Mr. and Mrs. M. Sweet, Folmer Sweet and Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Wiedmann \$12	20.00							20.00	
West Branch, Ia., Mr. and Mrs. Ervin H. Eden in memory of Mrs. Agnes Madsen	3.00				3.00				
Dannebrog, Nebr., J. C. Henriksen	500.00				500.00				
Ruskin, Nebr., in memory of Mrs. Anna West: Mr. and Mrs. Jens Houtved \$2, Magnus P. West \$3, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hansen in memory of mother \$2	7.00	7.00							
Washington Island, Wis., Trinity Luth. Sunday School	15.66		15.66						
Lynwood, Calif., St. Paul's Luth. Church for Pastor Paul John- sen's salary for July and August	600.00	600.00							
Sleepy Eye, Minn., Trinity Luth. Church	92.50							92.50	
Rutland, Ia., Trinity Luth. Church offering at meeting with Munchi Tudu	10.20			10.20					
Kankakee, Ill., St. Ansgar Luth. Church	5.00							5.00	
Oakland, Calif., Our Savior's Luth. Church	61.35	61.35							
Kansas City, Kan., Westwood Luth. Church, offering at meet- ing by Helen M. Jacobsen	26.55				26.55				
Estherville, Ia., Mrs. James Jensen	5.00							5.00	
Westbrook, Me., Tabitha Society of Trinity Church	14.93	14.93							
Oakland, Calif., Dorcas Society of Our Savior's Luth. Church	24.00	24.00							
Fresno, Calif., Bethel Luth. Sunday School	10.00		10.00						
Laurel, Nebr., Gethsemane Luth. Sunday School	9.15		9.15						
Altura, Colo., Community Luth. Church, offering at meeting by Helen M. Jacobsen	26.67				26.67				
Sidney, Mont., Pella Foreign Mission Society	24.50			24.50					
Harlan, Ia., Immanuel Luth. Church	30.16			30.16					
Lynwood, Calif., St. Paul's Luth. Sunday School, collection at Daily Vacation Bible School	10.27			10.27					
Minden, Nebr., members of Bethany Home, offering at talk by Miss Helen M. Jacobsen	15.00				15.00				
Oakland, Calif., Captain and Mrs. A. Michelsen in memory of Peter Christensen	5.00								
Coulter, Ia., Nazareth Luth. Church	143.30							5.00	
Dannebrog, Nebr., Lois Carson	10.00							143.30	
Dannebrog, Nebr., Dannebrog Luth. Church	48.40				10.00				
Cushing, Nebr., St. John's Luth. Church	12.30				23.40				
Minden, Nebr., Bethany Luth. Church	25.60				12.30			25.00	
Underwood, Ia., Glen and Paul Christoffersen in memory of Air- man 2nd Class Rex Gaunt	2.00							2.00	
Neola, Ia., Mr. and Mrs. N. J. Nelson in memory of their sis- ter, Mrs. Emma Hansen	5.00		5.00						
Scranton, Ia., First Ev. Luth. Church	10.00				10.00				
Sanger, Calif., Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Larsen of Bethel Church, Fresno	300.00	100.00		100.00	100.00				
McNabb, Ill., Emmaus Luth. Sunday School	10.00		10.00						
Coalridge, Mont., Emmaus Luth. Church	81.20								
Humboldt, Ia., Dorcas Ladies Aid, offering at meeting by Mun- shi Tudu	14.28			14.28					
San Francisco, Mrs. Christine Christensen	5.00	5.00							
Neola, Ia., Esther Magnussen in memory of Emma L. Hansen, Underwood, Ia.	2.00		2.00						
Omaha, Nebr., Mrs. Peter Bondo, Mr. and Mrs. Boas Weismann and Mr. and Mrs. Leon Christensen in memory of Emma L. Hansen, Underwood, Ia.	5.00	5.00							

dubon, Ia., Eben-Ezer Ladies Aid	15.00			15.00					
rlan, Ia., Immanuel Luth. Sunday School	10.30			10.30					
icago, Ill., in memory of Mrs. Peter Blicher for Mrs. H. In-									
adomi's Girl School in Japan: Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Petersen,									
Evanston, Ill., \$2, Mr. and Mrs. M. T. Burch and Mr. and									
Mrs. S. E. Burch, Sr. \$5	7.00	7.00							
yal, Ia., Bethlehem Luth. Church	363.92							363.92	
mboldt, Ia., in memory of Mrs. Andrew Nielsen from friends	28.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00				
ux City, Ia., Our Savior's Luth. Church	91.84	22.96	22.96	22.96	22.96				
ss Lake, Ont., Canada, Salem Luth. Church	18.00				18.00				
TOTAL	30082.39	2189.27	1159.46	2495.41	3301.55	105.35	29.47	20726.88	75.00

CHURCH AND SCHOOL DRIVE

	Total Received	Dana Building Fund	Church Exten- sion Fd.
Previously acknowledged	212964.05	127858.69	85105.36
Eksonville, Ia., Pastor and Mrs. H. Irving Petersen, a thank offering on occasion of their silver wedding	25.00	12.50	12.50
Total	212989.05	127871.19	85117.86

Received with thanks.

Blair, Nebr., July 10, 1954.
H. J. Hansen, Treas.

The Atlantic District treasurer, Hr. Howard S. Peterson, Rt. 4, Portland, Maine, submits the following report of gifts to the District mission: Toronto \$365.22, Penn Yan, \$274.51, Falmouth \$254.63, Montreal \$238.79, Brooklyn \$200.00, Westbrook \$142.90, Boston \$98.57, St. Peter's, Salmonhurst, \$68.50, Bethany, Salmonhurst \$38.60, East Canada Luther League \$53.38, Offering at convention in Laurons, N. Y. \$131.62. Total \$1866.72. Howard S. Peterson.

NEWS AND NOTES

Continued from page 6)

iated at an evening communion service.

Monday the observance continued with a reunion hour followed by a flowship hour and closed with Rev. Hansen conducting the service.

Other activities Monday included a tour of Pioneer Village.

Organized in 1879

The Fredericksburg church was organized July 20, 1879, and the church was first constructed in 1883. It was destroyed in 1886 and rebuilt the same year.

The present church was constructed in 1911 and the parsonage was moved near the church site in 1943. There are 137 members.

The church is widely known in this area for the Memorial Day service annually conducted by its members, usually including church services, services at the church cemetery, a ball game and an auction of needlework.

Several thousand persons attend the observances annually.

W.M.S. ANNUAL MEETING
(Continued from page 9)

urth to the Santal Mission; and one-fourth to the Sudan mission.

W.M.S. Banquet

Memorial Hall was filled beyond capacity for the banquet that about thirty women joined the Luther League for the meal and returned for the W.M.S. program of installation of officers by Mrs. John Nielsen, Synodical W.M.S. vice-president, and to hear the guest missionary, Mrs. Lloyd eve.

Miss Palma Petersen, who has given twenty-five years of faithful and loyal service at Elim Children's Home, at Elkorn, Iowa, was honored with a corsage and a gift.

Miss Helen Margaret Jacobsen who had a speaking engagement and had to leave early because of the floods, was unable to be present. Her corsage was given to the oldest lady

present—Mrs. Marie Thomsen, eighty-four, of Sioux City, Iowa.

It was a joy to listen to Mrs. Neve discuss their work in Japan. She described their home, the use of their salary, reasons for having a maid, their work—likenesses and differences of Japanese Christians and American Christians, problems of working with Japanese who are a proud people with a different culture and combating the Buddhist religion.

The Neves have not chosen Japan in preference to America for ordinary living but because they are bringing the Gospel of Christ to the people of Japan and they love to tell about their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Budget 1954-55

South American Mission	\$2000.00	Church and School Development	500.00
Sudan Mission	1000.00	Pension Fund	200.00
Japan Mission	1000.00		
Santal Mission	1500.00	New Home Missions	200.00
Utah Mission	200.00	Dana Foundation	200.00

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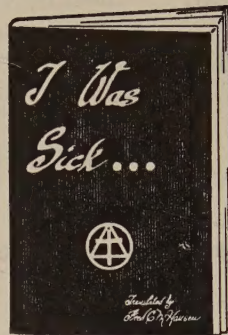
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